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C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 001707

TERREP

STATE FOR SCA/FO, SCA/A, DS/IP/SCA AND DS/IP/ITA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/06/2018

TAGS: [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [AF](#)

SUBJECT: KABUL - SVBIED ATTACK ON INDIAN EMBASSY

REF: RSO SPOT REPORT

Classified By: RSO Bruce T. Mills, reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

¶1. (SBU) At approximately 0830 HRS local time on Monday, July 7, 2008, a suicide vehicle-borne IED exploded outside the front gate of the Indian Embassy in Kabul. LEGATT and RSO personnel from the U.S. Embassy responded to the scene to assist Afghan and Coalition officials on-site with the post blast investigation. According to Afghan Ministry of Interior (MOI) and National Directorate of Security (NDS) officers at the scene, the Indian Ambassador's vehicle had passed through an MOI checkpoint near the Indian Embassy and proceeded into the Indian Embassy compound a short distance away. Approximately 1-2 minutes later another Indian Embassy vehicle, reportedly a security vehicle, passed through the same checkpoint and was tailed through the checkpoint by a gray Toyota Surf occupied by a single male occupant. The MOI officer(s) at the checkpoint reportedly attempted stop the gray Surf (NFI) but it proceeded through and then attempted to trail the Indian Embassy vehicle through the front gate of the Indian Embassy. The Indian Embassy vehicle stopped outside the gate and the gray Surf then detonated.

¶2. (C) According to MOI and NDS, initial reports from the scene indicated that the blast resulted in approximately 29 plus local and other nationals killed and over 100 local nationals wounded. The dead included five MOI diplomatic guards assigned to protect the Indian Embassy and, presumably, the occupant(s) of the Indian Embassy vehicle. The Indian Embassy would not allow investigators to enter the embassy compound so the exact number of Indian Embassy dead and/or wounded is unclear, however, the Embassy did confirm that two of their personnel were killed. (Defense Attach BG R.D. Mehta and Counselor V. Venkateswara Rao.) Embassy expects the final number of killed and wounded will change.

¶3. (C) NDS personnel were in control of the blast site so no physical evidence was collected by U.S. personnel. However, based upon the extensive damage observed at the scene - multiple KIA and WIA, large/deep blast crater, multiple heavily damaged surrounding buildings and several destroyed local vehicles on the road - bomb technicians at the scene from the Combined Explosives Exploitation Cell (CEXC) made an initial estimation that the charge weight of the SVBIED was in excess of 240 pounds. Final estimation of the charge weight and explosives composition is pending the completion of the CEXC report from the scene.

¶4. (U) Additional information regarding these incidents will be forwarded via SEPTEL as it becomes available.

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